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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/592,387	06/12/2000	Carl T. Anderson	RSW9-2000-0026-US1	5014

7590

05/17/2004

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EXAMINER

CHUONG, TRUC T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2174

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/592,387

Applicant(s)

ANDERSON ET AL.

Examiner

Truc T Chuong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-12 and 14-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-12 and 14-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to RCE, filed 03/09/04.
2. Claims 1-2, 4-12, and 14-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 11 are independent claims. In the communication, claims 1, 4, 11, and 14 are amended, and claims 3 and 13 are cancelled. This action is made non-final.
3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. Claims 1-2, 4-12, and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wynn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,734,883 B1).

As to claim 1, Wynn teaches a user assistance system for providing user assistance in connection with procedures associated with the operation of a computer program running on a computer system, each of said procedures comprising in interrelated series of selectable steps, with one of the steps being a currently-selected step, said user assistance system comprising:

a client area displaying information pertaining to the currently-selected step (a current URL, col. 5 lines 48-51, and fig. 8); and

a navigator bar adjacent to said work area (Spinner 70, col. 5 lines 37-45, and figs. 7-8), said navigator bar displaying a visual representation of said interrelated series of selectable steps associated with said currently-selected step (select Current Choice, col. 5 lines 36-50, and fig. 8),

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said visual representation including a display of future steps not yet performed by said computer program (preview list, col. 5 lines 45-65, and fig. 8).

As to claim 2, Wynn teaches the user assistance system of claim 1, wherein said navigator bar is dividable into segments, with each segment corresponding to one of said steps of said interrelated series of selectable steps (fig. 8 shows interrelated listing items).

As to claim 4, Wynn teaches the user-assistance program of claim 1, wherein said future steps comprise the most likely steps to be traversed for the procedure associated with the interrelated series of selectable steps being displayed (the relationships among current, postview, and preview, col. 5 lines 45-65, col. 6 lines 33-36, and fig. 8).

As to claim 5, Wynn teaches the user assistance system of claim 4, wherein said visual representation of said interrelated series of selectable steps displayed by said navigator bar further includes:

past steps already performed by said computer program (the postview list contain a sorted list of URL's previously visited, col. 5 lines 51-52); and
the currently-selected step (col. 5 lines 53-55).

As to claim 6, Wynn teaches the user assistance system of claim 5, wherein said segments include active segments and inactive segments, and wherein selection of an active segment changes the currently-selected step to the step corresponding to said selected active segment (col. 6 lines 30-43).

As to claim 7, Wynn teaches the user assistance system of claim 6, wherein said navigator bar displays said segments in a serial manner, and wherein said navigator bar can be

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scrolled to allow viewing of segments preceding or following said segment corresponding to said currently-selected step (Spinner, col. 5 lines 30-45, and fig. 8).

As to claim 8, Wynn teaches the user assistance system of claim 7, wherein the action of scrolling said navigator bar does not change the information being displayed in said client area (Scrolling the spinner does not affect until selection finalization may be made by use of an optional "OK", col. 6 lines 1-15).

As to claim 9, Wynn teaches the user assistance system of claim 8, wherein said information displayed in said client area comprises a selectable list of alternative choices for subsequent steps to be taken by said computer program (Wynn inherently teaches this limitation because URLs of a web site are united in hierarchical relationships).

As to claim 10, Wynn teaches the user assistance system of claim 9, wherein selection of one of said alternative choices causes said display of future steps not yet performed by said computer program to change to a display of said future steps associated with said selected alternative choice (if a future link is performing, it will change to current state, col. 5 lines 45-65, and fig. 8).

As to claims 11-12, and 14-20, they are method claims of system claims 1-2, and 4-10. Note the rejections of claims 1-2, and 4-10 above respectively.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Truc T Chuong whose telephone number is 703-305-5753. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th and alternate Fridays 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on 703-308-0640. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Truc T. Chong

05/12/04

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